

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 2-5, 12-15 and 17-20 are pending and are deemed allowable.

Claims 1, 6-11 and 16 are canceled without prejudice.

### **II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 7-11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Kennedy et al. (6,325,731). Claims 1, 7-11 and 16 are canceled without prejudice thereby rendering the rejections thereof moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

### **III. Allowed Claims**

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 2-5, 12-15 and 17-20.

### **VI. Conclusion**

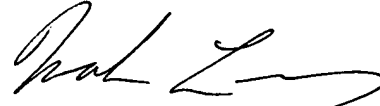
Based on all the foregoing, pending claims 2-5, 12-15 and 17-20 are considered to define patentably over the prior art and have been deemed allowable. Reconsideration is requested and favorable action is solicited. If any issues remain, Applicants request that undersigned counsel be contacted via collect call to resolve any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

LORUSSO & ASSOCIATES

Mark D. Lorusso  
Reg. No. 41,955

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3 Pinecrest Terrace  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
Tel.: (603) 427-0070  
FAX: (603) 427-5530  
Email: [mlorusso@lloplaw.com](mailto:mlorusso@lloplaw.com)

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Mark D. Lorusso